

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE



In re U.S. Patent Application of:

BUSCHATZ et al. )  
Serial No.: To Be Assigned )  
Filed: Concurrently Herewith )  
For: DEVICE FOR PLACING )  
A DRIVE ELEMENT ON )  
A VALVE )

Charlotte, North Carolina, February 27, 2002

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, DC 20231

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

Sir:

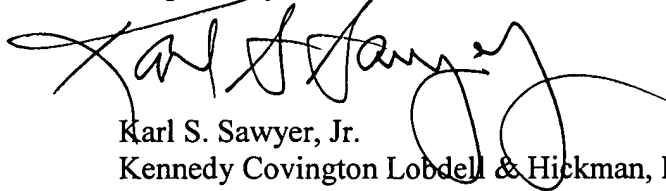
In compliance with the Applicants' duty of disclosure under 37 CFR 1.56, the applicants submit this Information Disclosure Statement pursuant to the provisions of 37 CFR 1.97. A PTO Form 1449 listing references known to the applicant is attached. A copy of each reference is also attached.

No admission is made that the information cited in this Statement is, or is considered to be, material to patentability nor a representation that a search has been made (other than search report(s) from a counterpart foreign application or a PCT International Search Report, if submitted herewith). 37 CFR §§ 1.97(g) and (h).

The present application corresponds to a German patent application filed by the applicants, from which priority for the present application is claimed.

As to non-English references, an English abstract and/or a U.S. Patent or other English language counterpart is also attached for each such reference. The Examiner is encouraged to undertake his or her own detailed evaluation of these references.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Karl S. Sawyer, Jr.', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Karl S. Sawyer, Jr.  
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Attorney Docket No.: 18138.026

**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING BY "EXPRESS MAIL" (37 CFR 1.10)**Applicant(s): **Buschaltz et al.**Docket No. **18138.026**Serial No.  
To Be AssignedFiling Date  
Concurrently HerewithExaminer  
To Be AssignedGroup Art Unit  
To Be AssignedInvention: **DEVICE FOR PLACING A DRIVE ELEMENT ON A VALVE**I hereby certify that this **Information Disclosure Statement with references**

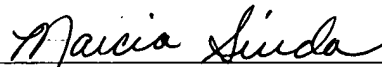
(Identify type of correspondence)

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20231-0001 on **February 27, 2002**  
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